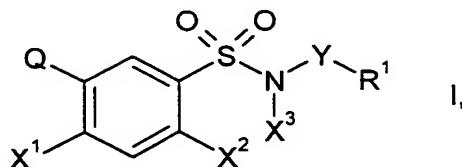


Abstract

The present invention relates to benzenesulfonamide derivatives of the formula I



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in which the variables are as defined below:

- X¹ is hydrogen or halogen;
- 10 X² is hydrogen, cyano, CS-NH₂, halogen, alkyl or haloalkyl;
- 15 X³ is hydrogen, cyano, alkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or phenylalkyl, where the phenyl radical for its part may be substituted;
- Y is a group -C(A)B, SO₂ or SO₂NR²;
- A is oxygen or sulfur;
- 20 B is oxygen, sulfur, NR² or a bond;
- R¹ is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyloxy, alkenyloxy, alkynyoxy, aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyl, where the 13 last mentioned radicals for their part may be substituted;
25 unsubstituted or substituted four- to six-membered heterocycl; unsubstituted or substituted four- to six-membered heterocycl-C₁-C₄-alkyl; unsubstituted or substituted five- or six-membered heteroaryl having one to four nitrogen atoms or having one to three nitrogen atoms and one oxygen or one sulfur atom or having one oxygen or sulfur atom; or
30 unsubstituted or substituted five- or six-membered heteroaryl-C₁-C₄-alkyl having one to four nitrogen atoms or having one to three nitrogen atoms and one oxygen or one sulfur atom or having one oxygen or sulfur atom;
- 35 R² is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, where the four last mentioned radicals may be partially or fully halogenated; or

R¹ and R² together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an unsubstituted or substituted three- to seven-membered heterocycle;

Q is a radical from the group consisting of Q¹ to Q³⁹;

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to processes and intermediates for their preparation and to the use of these compounds or of the compositions comprising these compounds for controlling unwanted plants and for the desiccation/defoliation of plants.